

From: mike
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/25/02 6:50pm
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

To Whom it May Concern,

I must strenuously object to the proposed settlement with Microsoft. It is clear that Microsoft is not phased by your actions as they continue, even now the very activities of which they have been convicted. In the past several weeks they have filed a frivolous lawsuit against Lindows Inc. in an attempt to use their vast wealth to bankrupt a competitor. Further, even with action hanging over their heads, they released an operating system with yet more forced hooks in it, and are branching out into the internet infrastructure (.net) and the game box (xbox) arenas. Earlier this week they announced they would extend the capabilities of the xbox to include web browsing, e-mail and other computer related functions. This is clearly a first step (well not really a first step, remember the PC99 standard) to break into the computer manufacturing business. Microsoft producing computers would place the final nail into the coffin of choice for PC owners.

On the issue of a breakup, I don't think this is a good idea. I believe leaving Microsoft intact and compelling them to abide by the additional constraints of being a monopoly would be more effective. A much better solution would be to restrict their exercise of their software patents, and prohibit further patent action. Along with this a true opening of their file formats and apis would be in order. A breakup would leave 2 or more companies, unencumbered with the stigma of monopoly, but with the same majority stockholders and management team. This would almost incur in the realm of a reward for wrong doing. If a breakup were to be effective it would need to completely disassociate the resulting companies. More importantly the development tools division would have to be spun off. With the development tools being created by an autonomous company, the stranglehold that Microsoft holds on the industry may be broken. No more would there be apis visible only to the developers that create Microsoft operating systems and applications. And perhaps the steady decline of useful documentation for the development tools would come to an end.

Thank you for your attention in this matter.
Michael G. Grello
Principal Programmer
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